

REMARKS

This amendment responds to the office action mailed November 18, 2004. In the office action the Examiner:

- allowed claims 5-22;
- objected to claims 2-4 as depending from a rejected based claim; and
- rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Matsubara et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,953,286.

After entry of this amendment, the pending claims are: claims 1-22.

*Overview of Changes to Claims*

Claim 1 has been amended to add further clarification by including the limitation of “in the master.” Support is found in the specification on p. 5, lines 7-14. Further support is found in the specification at Figure 7 and on p. 8, lines 14-26. The amendment, therefore, does not constitute new matter.

*35 USC 102(e) Rejections*

Matsubara et al. discloses a semiconductor memory having a memory controller and a plurality of synchronous DRAMs or memory cells. The memory controller outputs 2 clocks, a reference clock (RCLK) and a clock signal (CLK). These clocks are used in the DRAMs to adjust the phase of output clock in the DRAM. The read-out data from the DRAM is outputted from the DRAM in accordance with the output clock (col. 6, lines 1-52).

Claim 1 refers to a master (e.g., a memory controller) and one or more slave devices (such as DRAMs). Claim 1 as amended has the limitation of:

“arbitrarily adjusting the phase of the transmit clock signal, in the master, while maintaining a first predetermined phase relationship between the transmit clock signal and the second system clock” (emphasis added).

The cited prior art does not include this limitation performed in the master. As a consequence, the prior art does not anticipate claim 1. Removal of this ground for rejection is requested.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider this application with a view towards allowance of all the claims. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at 650-843-4000, if a telephone call could help resolve any remaining items.

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Respectfully submitted,



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